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ON DIORITE.

BY ELI S. REINHOLD.

Several years ago I received a box of minerals from Placer County, California, which contained a specimen marked "Hornblende," so peculiar in appearance, that I laid it aside for special examination.

I herewith send the specimen, which proved to be diorite, a rock of volcanic origin. The arrangement of the hornblende and feldspar is different from that of any trap-rocks of same composition in the Eastern States, with which I am familiar. The centre of each nodule is composed of crystalline granules of the two minerals, hornblende and feldspar; this is enveloped by a zone of clear white feldspar, followed by another of both minerals in which the crystals are radiately arranged, at least sufficiently so to make it apparent to the unassisted eye. Another band of feldspar, less pure, however, than the first, is followed by a zone of hornblende which shades off into the coarse, crystalline, granular matrix of hornblende and feldspar of no defined arrangement.

Not having access to any lithological collection, nor even to the books descriptive of all the varieties of greenstone, I may overestimate the interest of this California rock.

A description before me of a diorite found in the Island of Corsica, known as Napoleonite, answers to many points in this specimen. The nodular masses of the Corsican greenstone are described as globular, while in the California rock they are oblate-spheroidal. It would be a matter of interest to ascertain what member of the feldspar group is represented in this rock. All my books agree in assigning the mineral in diorite (generally) to the *triclinic* feldspars; but some give labradorite, others oligoclase and albite; while another author calls it a mixture of anorthite and albite. Either the feldspar in diorite from different localities varies, or else opinions in reference to it are very diverse.

Locality is marked on specimen label.